

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RUDY GIULIANI COMMENTS REGARDING THE IRANIAN REGIME OF TERROR

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD comments about the situation in Iran that I believe are relevant and should be widely shared. The comments, from former New York City Mayor and attorney to the U.S. President Rudy Giuliani, address peaceful regime change in Iran and the work of the Iranian Resistance. Giuliani delivered this speech at the International Gathering at Ashraf-3, Tirana, Albania, which is home to members of the Iranian opposition, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (PMOI/MEK). More than 350 bipartisan dignitaries and parliamentarians from 47 countries attended the conference. I offer these comments for thoughtful discussion as follows:

Giuliani: "Thanks to you and particularly to the people who live here in Ashraf 3. You'll be the ones who lead your people to freedom and you'll be honored forever in Iranian history and in the history of those who love and are willing to die for freedom. God bless you."

This organization has grown and grown and grown and I feel in this room today a kind of optimism that I don't remember feeling before when we were in Paris. I feel an optimism maybe because you've done a miracle here in Ashraf. If we were to build this in New York City, it would take 15 years and 14 corruption investigations. I was here a year and a half ago, this wasn't here.

And of course, all of this is possible because of the leadership of Madame Maryam Rajavi, a truly exceptional leader. Just like her husband Massoud Rajavi, who began this movement in one very brave act. He refused to swear allegiance to the Supreme Leader Khomeini to his face. He said, "No, I will not swear allegiance to you. I will not deliver my nation to a tyrant."

I'm here to say three things. First, I accuse the Ayatollah and Rouhani and all of their sycophants and followers of mass murder, crimes against humanity. We should be embarrassed for our countries if they haven't stood up against this. There's no middle ground here. These people have killed at least 120,000 members and associates of this great organization. You see the book. You go through the sad, tragic, but heroic exhibit they have of the martyrs to freedom. Look at the photograph of the people in the infirmary being treated for illness, slaughtered just a few years ago. Killed 52 of them of the last 100 people who stayed at Ashraf, they tried to wipe them all out. In 1988, in two months they slaughtered 30,000 people. These are not numbers, these are human lives.

So there are three things that we have to do. Number one, we have to get the governments of Europe to stand up, to wake up, to reclaim their dignity and their honor. These are the countries that gave us democracy. Greece, Rome, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Germany, all places in which freedom was born, democracy was born, democracy

emerged. Democracy for my nation came out of Europe and the experience of Europe. So how can the leaders of those countries turn their back on mass murder? How can they do it and live with themselves? It's time to end that shameful disregard.

There's no statute of limitations on murder. I prosecuted two Nazis 40 years after their horrible deeds. One killed 20,000 people, the other killed 12,000 people and we found them and it took years and we brought them to justice. The people who slaughtered 30,000 people in 1988 should be identified, they should be prosecuted, and they should either be imprisoned for life or executed. They're criminals. They're murderers. They're not leaders of countries. They are no better than the murderer in the street except they're worse because they're mass murderers.

I am so proud of my government because we have stood up. We looked at that agreement that would make Iran a nuclear power and we said tear it up. We're not going to put nuclear weapons in the hands of a maniac. Well, I say to the leaders of Europe, you can be liberators too. You can go down in history as fighters for freedom.

Isn't that better than just running a government and making money and giving blood money to Iran? How can you do commerce with them? We all know they're the largest sponsor of terrorism in the world. What does that mean? That means they fund and they supply murderers not only in their own country but all over the world. And when you give them money, when you relieve them of a debt, which my government did in the prior administration, and put over a billion dollars back in their hands, you are supporting murder. What do they use it for? Their people know, their people know that when they get money, when a French company or a German company does business with them, that money, that profit is going to be used to kill people in Syria or to kill people somewhere else or to send people to Albania to kill us or to send people to France like they did last year to kill Madame Rajavi and us. That's what they're funding, don't you realize it? That makes you complicit in murder.

Number two, let's make it clear, there is an alternative to this horrible regime of terror. This isn't one of those situations in which we have the choice of deposing a horrible dictator and we don't know if a more horrible one will come along. Right? And when we saw that happen, we saw it happen in Egypt, in some ways we saw it happen in Libya.

But here we don't have that problem. We've got the worst regime in the world by far, the biggest sponsor of terrorism in the world. And then we have the National Council, the NCRI, led by the president-elect, Madame Rajavi. Coalition of resistance organizations respected throughout the world. There are representatives of most of the major countries in the world here. They've gotten to know her. They've gotten to respect her. In my country, she's thoroughly respected.

We know there's a group of people who have been fighting for freedom all their lives, who have lost the closest people to them in the fight for freedom, who are dedicated to it.

People here at Ashraf, let's make it clear. I spent a lot of time with them. These are

people who are dedicated to freedom. And if you think that's a cult, then there's something wrong with you. There's something missing in your soul.

But we know that there is a government in exile, it negotiates with the whole world, and it's written down plain as can be what it stands for. And it looks just like our Bill of Rights, just like the universal declarations of freedom and decency and human rights enshrined in the great documents of the world. Free elections within six months is the promise, and I believe it will be fulfilled. They're for gender equality. They're for human rights. They're for a system of law. They're for we don't imprison someone unless they have a fair trial. And because of their history, they oppose capital punishment, because there's been too much of it. And it isn't just capital punishment, it's murder in their country. This is a good organization. And it's an organization that is ready, willing and able not to take over Iran but to guide Iran to elections as quickly as possible and hopefully they will be part of the coalition governing Iran like they're part of the coalition that is trying to guide Iran to freedom. This is a group that we can support. It's a group that we should stop maligning and it's a group that should make us comfortable having regime change in the worst regime in the world.

Here's what you can do. You can be a witness like in the Biblical sense of a witness. You know something that a lot of people don't know. You know really how bad it is in Iran. And you know about MEK. And you know about Madame Rajavi. And you know the truth, not the lies, "the cult, they don't have support in Iran." Why has the Ayatollah been murdering them for 40 years if they don't have support in Iran? The Ayatollah, Rouhani, have said that this organization is the only one that's really a danger to them.

You now have a responsibility because of your knowledge. Don't be euphemistic about it. Don't hide your eyes. You've got to get the leaders of your country to stand up so you can all be proud of your country and its heritage.

I get attacked and my colleagues who will be here in a moment get attacked all the time in America. Why we're doing this? We're doing it really very simply because we love freedom and we can't turn our back on people who are being treated this way and we can't turn our back on a situation that could be catastrophic for them and catastrophic for the world. You know what I say to them? Keep doing it. Keep doing it. I wear it as a badge of honor. I support freedom, you support oppression. I support democracy, you support a dictatorship. I support decent people who share the values of decent governments, and you support mass murderers. Now who's right and who's wrong?

But I know and I feel as I've told you, and I know why there's an optimism in this room. Because we're going to be in Tehran much sooner than all those cynics believe. You know why? [Because we are Hazer, Hazer, Hazer. (We're ready)."]

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

REMEMBERING HÉCTOR FIGUEROA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Héctor Figueroa, a champion for workers' rights, an advocate for immigrants, a New Yorker, a passionate Puerto Rican and my dear friend. Above all, Héctor was a fighter for the vulnerable, the down-trodden and those who were treated unfairly. Sadly, Héctor passed last week. He will be honored at a public service on Wednesday in New York City.

Héctor Figueroa was known most notably for his leadership of 32BJ SEIU. Under his leadership, 32BJ SEIU grew by over 50,000 members and passed dozens of local and state-level policies. Héctor previously worked as SEIU's Organizing Director for Puerto Rico, winning collective bargaining rights for teachers, as well as for SEIU's Justice for Janitors campaign and a researcher for Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (Workers United).

Most recently, Héctor was central to building support for relief in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Born in Ponce as the son of two educators, the Island was near and dear to his heart. In the dark months following Hurricane Maria, Héctor was critical to mobilizing support among New York's Puerto Rican community, 32BJ members and non-members alike, to send aid to the Island and build political momentum for Washington to do better in channeling assistance to our fellow citizens as they struggled through a humanitarian crisis.

Throughout his life, Héctor made waves as a progressive fighter for justice for all people. He was relentless in advocating for the rights of the doormen and doorwomen, custodial workers, airport security guards and others who constituted 32BJ's membership. However, he was also on the frontlines helping taxicab drivers, fast food workers and laborers in every sector achieve fairer wages and improved conditions. To him, anyone who was oppressed was an ally and he was ready to join arms with them and march in common cause.

His belief that all workers were deserving of respect and kindness extended beyond his work as a labor leader; it infused his very demeanor. Héctor treated everyone, from the youngest organizers, to the most junior political aides, to the most powerful elected officials with the same kindness and warmth.

Whether it was fighting to expand healthcare, protecting immigrant communities from ICE, strengthening voter rights or addressing the threats of climate change, Héctor was on the frontlines of every battle related to economic and social justice. Just last week, this House voted to raise the federal minimum wage, a milestone achievement, years in the making. I like to think wherever he is, that victory would bring a smile to Héctor's face.

New York City and working people everywhere have lost a champion. I, personally, have lost a dear friend. From my earliest days in politics, I could always count on Héctor for wise advice and kind counsel. I'll miss our days together and fighting alongside one another. While he was taken from us too young, we'll honor his memory by continuing to ad-

vance the causes that inspired him. As Héctor always said, "We'll keep organizing." Yes, my friend, we will.

**RECOGNIZING THE DC GRAYS
BASEBALL TEAM****HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the DC Grays for their commitment and contribution to increasing interest and youth participation in baseball and softball in the District of Columbia. In particular, I want to recognize the DC Grays 2019 summer college baseball team and the annual Capitol Hill reception.

The DC Grays is a talented collegiate summer baseball team that, in addition to competing in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, strives to engage inner-city youth and their families with baseball. Their mission is to be "ambassadors for baseball" in the District by running summer baseball camps and clinics for D.C. youth.

Named for the champion Homestead Grays from the Negro Leagues, the DC Grays reaches out to African-American ballplayers who may have been overlooked by other teams.

The DC Grays partners with Major League Baseball (MLB) to further help its mission of providing disadvantaged youth an opportunity to learn and enjoy the game of baseball. The programs help motivate young players to stay in school and pursue secondary education. MLB's RBI program helps teach youth not only the importance of success on the field but also in the classroom and the community. This year, the DC Grays RBI is sponsoring two summer baseball leagues and two travel softball teams for kids from Wards 6, 7, and 8 in D.C.—in addition to fall ball programs and winter training. There are 250 kids participating in DC Grays RBI programs this year.

Last year, the DC Grays participated in MLB's unveiling of the new Josh Gibson mural on U Street across from Ben's Chili Bowl, and their players attended an event to honor Jackie Robinson as part of MLB's all-star festivities. They strive to honor the Negro Leagues and its role in Washington baseball history. Each year, the DC Grays hosts a salute to Negro League Baseball in collaboration with the Hubert Simons League Museum.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending the DC Grays for the important work it has done and continues to do in the community. We wish the DC Grays luck in continuing to inspire and engage disadvantaged youth.

**RECOGNIZING THE CHAMBERS
COUNTY COURTHOUSE ON ITS
DESIGNATION AS A TEXAS
STATE HISTORICAL MARKER****HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chambers County Courthouse

for its designation as an official Texas State Historical Marker.

Named after Texas pioneer Major General Thomas Jefferson Chambers, Chambers County was established in 1858. Until the early 20th century, Wallisville was the county seat and the location for the first three Chambers County courthouses built in 1858, 1880 and 1887 respectively. However, Anahuac's rice canal system and the presence of wild hogs in Wallisville prompted an election in 1907 that made Anahuac the county seat in 1908.

After the election and the move, the county constructed a new courthouse. Completed in 1912 at its current location, the new municipal building included a jail, indoor plumbing, telephones, and electric lights. Built in the Renaissance Revival style, its imposing figure boasted large columns and a stone exterior. The building, however, burned down on April 28, 1935.

Later in 1935, County Treasurer Grover C. Wilcox desired a modern courthouse "in line with the growth of the town." As a part of federal New Deal programs, the Public Works Administration contributed funds for the design and construction. Designed by Corneil G. Curtis and built by notable contractor Robert E. McKee, construction finished in May 1937 on the three-story, ashlar limestone building. A combination of art deco and modern architectural styles (1920s to 1940s), the courthouse's exterior showcases vertical lines, a symmetrical façade, geometric shapes, and simple ornamentation. Since its construction, little has changed about this unique building. Throughout its history, the Chambers County Courthouse has not only acted as a focal point of the community but has also reflected the county's economic, political and social history.

As a former member of the Texas Historic Commission, I know this is a great honor for the community. I wish all of my friends in Chambers County well as they celebrate the dedication on July 23rd.

**HONORING ARKANSAS'S KOREAN
WAR VETERANS****HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arkansas's Korean War veteran commemorations. This summer, the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs is honoring the men and women who served our country and defended South Korea during the Cold War.

In an oft-forgotten chapter of history, Korean War soldiers from the United States provided vital assistance to the South Korean army. During a volatile time, their service prevented North Korean forces from taking over the entire Korean peninsula.

Arkansas has a rich history of bravery and patriotism, and I'm honored to recognize our Korean War veterans at these commemoration events. I thank each one of them for their service, and hope their legacies continue for generations to come.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the International Institute of Minnesota on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The Institute's original mission is as vital today as it was after World War I when it welcomed refugees fleeing strife and instability in their homelands and helped them achieve self-sufficiency and full membership in American life.

In 1919, leaders of the Saint Paul YWCA came together to address an urgent need in the community to serve those who were arriving to Minnesota, displaced in the aftermath of the "War to End All Wars." Out of this effort, the Institute became one of the first state resettlement voluntary agencies (VOLAGS).

The onset of World War II saw the need for the Institute's services to expand. During this time, the organization partnered with the War Relocation Authority, helping to free Japanese-Americans from internment camps and working as translators and codebreakers at Fort Snelling. At the end of the Vietnam War, many refugees were displaced from Southeast Asia to Minnesota, particularly ethnic Hmong and others from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Since 1974, the Institute has resettled approximately 25,000 refugees from every region of the world, including recent arrivals from Somalia and Myanmar.

As economists point to increasingly tight labor markets and a growing scarcity of workers as two of our state's most significant barriers to sustained economic growth, the Institute contributes to our economic vitality by opening the door for those pursuing the American dream. By partnering with new Americans on a path to citizenship, entrepreneurship and full membership in our community, state and country, the Institute has empowered thousands of new Americans to become our trusted doctors, business leaders, teachers, engineers, scientists, policemen and soldiers.

Recognizing that new Americans enrich our state in many ways, the Institute honors and shares our state's growing diversity and fosters cultural understanding. For nearly 90 years, the Institute's Festival of Nations has drawn thousands of people together each May to celebrate the many traditions that are shared by Minnesotans. Through this festival, Minnesotans can better appreciate how as a state and nation of Native Americans and immigrants, our strength is our diversity of backgrounds, viewpoints and religions.

The motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States: "E Pluribus Unum—Out of Many, One" underscores that the foundation of our nation has always been the collective power of many different people coming together. For 100 years, the International Institute of Minnesota has proudly supported our nation by welcoming and empowering new refugees and immigrants from different backgrounds to come together as new Americans.

Please join me to congratulate the staff, volunteers and donors to the International Institute of Minnesota for providing 100 years of

hospitality, empowerment, hope and opportunity for new Americans.

CONGRATULATING JOHN F. MITTON FOR BEING VOTED INTO THE TEXAS RADIO HALL OF FAME

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John F. Mitton from Missouri City, Texas for being voted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame.

Mitton, president of a national advertising agency based in Sugar Land, is one of only twenty Texas broadcasters who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Inductions will be held on November 2, 2019, at the Texas Museum of Broadcasting and Communications. Mitton has always had a strong suit for "listening to his clients . . . [and] helping develop and refine some of the best niche products ever featured in Texas radio."

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to John Mitton for being elected into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. Texas has benefited from his contributions to radio. We are very proud of him and this incredible accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT J. FRIEND

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Jones Friend, who died on June 21, 2019 in Long Beach, California, surrounded by his family. Lieutenant Colonel Friend was a member of the heroic unit known as the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

Robert J. Friend was born on February 29, 1920, in Columbia, South Carolina, to William A. Friend and Nella Mae Jones Liner. His father was an immigrant from Ecuador and a veteran of World War I. The oldest of four children, Robert was an aviation enthusiast from a young age, often building model airplanes and reading stories of World War I pilots during his childhood. While studying at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, he joined the Civilian Pilot Training Program where he earned his pilot's license in 1939.

Despite his passion for aviation, he was denied entry into flight training by the Army Air Force because of his race. Instead he joined as an air-cadet in the all-black 99th Pursuit Squadron, nicknamed the Tuskegee Airmen. During World War II, Lieutenant Colonel Friend flew 142 missions for the 322nd Fighter Group. He began his tour in North Africa and was later sent to the European Theater to serve as a Combat Operations Officer where he was instrumental in orchestrating tactical air missions. He specialized in flying the P-47 and P-51 Mustang aircraft. He experienced multiple death-defying disasters, including when he had to abandon his plane over the

mountains of Italy and when a German oil barge explosion nearly grounded his aircraft. He became the primary wingman to his commanding officer, Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who would become the first black general in the Air Force. Robert and his fellow airmen were later awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their service to our country.

After his service in World War II, Lieutenant Colonel Friend continued his education and received a degree in astrophysics from the Air Force Institute of Technology, later graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles Business School. Additionally, he continued his career in the military for 28 years by serving as an operations officer during the Korean and Vietnam wars, working on the Delta, Titan, and Atlas rocket programs, and operating as an executive of the aerospace companies, Stanford Mu and Fairchild Stratos. Following his retirement from military service, Robert started an aerospace company and conducted speaking engagements, remaining dedicated to sharing the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and keeping their history alive.

Robert J. Friend is survived by his children: Thelma Hoffman, Robert, Jr., Michael, Debra Carter, Karen Crumlich, Clara Ann Browning, 18 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren. The memory of his son, Darryl, who was killed while on active duty in 2002, continues to live on today.

It was my great honor to have known Lieutenant Colonel Friend, an intelligent, hard-working, and spirited man who spent his life in service to our country. I ask all members to join with me in remembering Lieutenant Colonel Robert Jones Friend, a true American hero.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRA S. HORN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, the U.S. Government is entrusted by the American people with certain responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is managing our government's finances and using taxpayer dollars wisely. In the last few decades, our government leaders have too often ignored this responsibility, opting rather to pay lip service to responsibly managing our budget but neglecting to do so in practice. This neglect has led to rampant spending, missed budgetary deadlines, and burdensome borrowing that have become mainstays of every Congress, regardless of which party holds the majority. The 116th Congress must take action to break this unsustainable cycle and restore the fiscal responsibility Americans have entrusted us with.

The 2019 GAO High-Risk List reveals that many federal government programs are over budget. This financial situation is not specific to one government agency or program. It can be found across the federal government. America must remain a world leader in many areas, such as scientific research, reliable infrastructure, and defense technology, and I understand that to do so requires large financial investments. However, it is also my responsibility as a Member of Congress to ensure the money our government spends is

being used effectively and efficiently so Americans are getting the most out of their hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

I have made it a priority to support legislation that addresses our government's spending habits. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I put forth a bipartisan amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) with fellow Oklahoman, Congressman TOM COLE, to allow the Department of Defense (DoD) to have better oversight of where and how government defense money is being spent. The amendment requires the office of the Inspector General to audit all sole-source contracts with depot maintenance centers. This audit, and other financial accounting tools, act as accountability measures to ensure the government is being a good steward of taxpayer money while keeping our country safe.

As a member of the Government Efficiency Caucus and the Blue Dog Coalition, I am constantly working with my colleagues to find ways to promote responsible government spending. The bipartisan Government Efficiency Caucus works to find pragmatic solutions to government spending that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs. The Blue Dog Coalition's Fiscal Responsibility Task Force analyzes ways to strengthen our fiscal responsibility and close the cycle of widespread government spending.

During the 116th Congress, the Government Efficiency Caucus has identified three priorities to improve the government's fiscal efficiency. These priorities include focusing on ensuring government agencies adopt monetary best practices to increase efficiency and effectiveness; supporting reasonable policy proposals that will improve the on-time, on-budget delivery of federal infrastructure investments; and modernizing the federal government workforce to ensure government employees have the skills, knowledge, and technology, to be good stewards of taxpayer money.

The Blue Dog Coalition's Fiscal Responsibility Task Force has released a set of policy proposals that include financial stability measures like creating a federal rainy-day fund so Congress is less reliant on massive, unplanned emergency spending when disasters strike. Another proposal emphasizes a return to the regular process of creating and passing the federal budget on time every year. This proposal outlines concepts like "No Budget, No Pay" and "No Budget, No Recess," which would increase the consequences on Congress for not passing a federal budget on time. These and other proposals outlined by the Blue Dog Fiscal Responsibility Task Force should be given extensive consideration by Congress, so our government can correct the bad fiscal habits it has developed.

Future generations of Americans should not have to pay for our irresponsible spending. It is up to us to get America's fiscal house in order so we can prove to the world that we are a nation that keeps its fiscal promises. Doing so will not only improve our government and its standing in the world, but also increase the faith that taxpayers have in the government to spend their money wisely.

RECOGNIZING GERARDO BECERRA FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement as President of two local International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) chapters, I rise today to commemorate the years of service my close friend, Mr. Gerardo Becerra, has given to the maritime industry and the thousands of members he passionately represented in South Florida. Gerry is a remarkable individual whose legacy in the port industry and the ILA will never be forgotten.

Born in 1941 in Havana, Cuba, Gerry escaped the Castro dictatorship in 1960 and had to build a new life for himself in South Florida. Shortly after arriving to the states, Gerry enlisted in the United States Army in 1962 and served our nation for a number of years. After being honorably discharged from the army, Gerry began working at the ports and in 1965 he was one of the original charter members for ILA's Local 1922 chapter.

Gerry's retirement closes his chapter of over fifty-four years of service to the longshoremen industry and the ILA. From 1965 to 1983, Gerry worked as a checker and plan clerk and through his hard work and dedication, he was appointed Vice President in 1984 for Local 1922, Local 1922-1, and Local 2062. In this role, he represented checkers, mechanics, and truck drivers. In 2005, he became President of Local 1922 and Local 1922-1 and served in this position until his retirement. Additionally, he served as Vice President of the ILA from 2006 until 2018. During this time, Gerry was integral in negotiating contracts, mediating grievances, and representing the interests of his colleagues.

Having had the privilege of working with Gerry for many years, his determination and passion for bettering the longshoremen industry never wavered. While his retirement marks the end of an era, I have no doubt that Gerry looks forward to spending more time with his wife of fifty-six years, Carmen, his two daughters, nine grandchildren, and extended family.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the impressive career of my dear friend, Mr. Gerry Becerra, and the strides he has made for the hardworking men and women in the port industry, and I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

NABILA NAZEER EARNS STATE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nabila Nazeer of Travis High School in Richmond, TX, who was selected for a scholarship from the U.S. Department of State's Youth Ambassadors study abroad exchange program.

This highly competitive merit-based scholarship will give Nabila the opportunity to focus on civic education and leadership development projects during an exchange program to the Caribbean and South America. During this program, Nabila will develop her foreign language skills, increase her cross-cultural understanding, strengthening her leadership capacity and foster new academic insights and ambitions.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Nabila Nazeer on earning this prestigious scholarship.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MOHAMMAD SIDDIQUE SHEIKH'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Mohammad Siddique Sheikh's nearly five decades of service to our great Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Sheikh was born and raised in Gujranwala, Pakistan, before moving to the United States 50 years ago. He came with just \$10 dollars in his pocket, and today he is a very successful businessman living the American dream. Since moving to this country, Mr. Sheikh has served our country as a successful entrepreneur and advocate for the Pakistani American community in the larger Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Mr. Sheikh has also been on several academic boards and business institutions, including George Mason University, one of Virginia's largest public research institutions. He is also the Founder of the Pakistan American Business Association (PABA), a representative body of entrepreneurs of Pakistani-origin. In recognition of his service and commitment, he was appointed as the Chairman of the Council on Diversity formed by the Police Chief of Fairfax County. He served in this position for more than five years.

Mr. Sheikh is a selfless and dedicated leader in the Pakistani American community. He has been a torch-bearer in promoting Pakistan's friendly image in the United States. Mr. Sheikh's servant leadership can be witnessed in his work when he helped create the Muslim Community Center in the state of Maryland and being a leading voice in the creation of Islamic Circle of North America Sunday School for Muslim communities residing in the DC metro area. In the education field, Mr. Sheikh has been a dominate force in promoting connections between higher institutions in Pakistan and the United States. As a member of the Board of Visitors at George Mason University and Pakistan's National University of Science of Technology, he led an effort to create opportunities for National University of Science and Technology faculty and students to study at George Mason University through various programs. He also played an active role in promoting cooperation between GMU and University of Karachi. Today, the two institutions are now working on various initiatives and programs.

Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege to know Mr. Sheikh for many years and count

him as a friend. I ask you to join me in recognition of Mr. Mohammad Siddique Sheikh leadership, passion, and determination in service to our great nation.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
OREGON RARE PROGRAM

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the University of Oregon Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) program. This AmeriCorps program is administered through the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement and is dedicated to improving economic, social, and environmental conditions in rural Oregon communities.

Since its inception in 1994, more than 600 RARE members have served all 36 counties and more than half of the cities in Oregon, providing much needed capacity and expertise to rural communities. In the past 25 years, RARE members have completed more than 2,000 assessments, plans, and reports for local communities, written more than 700 grants, raised over \$6 million for communities, and recruited more than 10,000 community volunteers who served more than 8.6 million hours. In the last five years alone, communities in my congressional district have benefited from 37 projects and partnerships coordinated by the RARE AmeriCorps Program.

This year, 31 RARE members are working across the State of Oregon to develop and implement community planning, community and economic development, natural resource planning, and community food security/food systems projects. Current projects in my district include a RARE member working with the City of Florence Public Art Committee to select and install two large-scale public art pieces in the Urban Renewal District. There is also a two-year project with the Oregon Coast Visitors Association focused on community-driven initiatives for outdoor recreation, signature events, and culinary and agritourism-related opportunities on the southern Oregon coast.

I am proud to note that RARE AmeriCorps Program partnerships include federal and state agencies and notable non-profit foundations and organizations. The key partners are the Corporation for National & Community Service (AmeriCorps), the University of Oregon, the Ford Family Foundation, the Oregon Food Bank, Travel Oregon, Oregon Main Street, Energy Trust of Oregon, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the RARE AmeriCorps Program on 25 years of service to rural communities in Oregon and to thank RARE for its many vital contributions. I have no doubt these first 25 years of success will serve as the inspiration for the next twenty-five.

CONGRATULATING THE PEARLAND
HIGH SCHOOL BAND FOR BEING
SELECTED TO PERFORM IN THE
ROSE PARADE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pearland High School marching band, also known as "The Pride of Pearland," for being chosen to perform in the 131st annual Rose Parade.

The band was chosen for a number of reasons, most notably its member's community service efforts, specifically towards hurricane, Harvey relief. The band was one of 16 chosen out of over 100 national and international applicants and the only Texas band selected this year. In addition to community work, the bands are judged based on musicality and marching skills. The band also garnered community support to help raise the money funds needed to pay for the trip to Pasadena, California, for the parade.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Pearland marching band for being chosen to represent Texas at the historical Rose Parade. We are very proud of them and this incredible accomplishment.

CELEBRATING DR. EDNA REHBEIN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Edna Rehbein, Assistant Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Texas State University, as she retires after 21 years of incredible public service. With her "can-do" spirit and high-minded vision, she's a model citizen and trusted community leader.

Renown for her expertise in Spanish and Spanish-American Literature, Edna has distinguished herself as a gifted educator and natural-born leader who has made a lasting impact on both her beloved university and the greater Round Rock, TX community. She's always shown tremendous respect and support for both students and colleagues while working tirelessly to make Texas State University Round Rock a world-class educational institution. She was the first director of the campus and started it from a program with just 5 classes that met at a local high school, to the program it is today with over 2,000 students and three state-of-the-art buildings on 101 acres in northeast Round Rock.

Outside of teaching, Edna contributes her expertise to various civic organizations in Central Texas. She represents Texas State University on community boards and organizations, including the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Board, Round Rock ISD Partners in Education Board, and was a founding member of the Round Rock Arts Council. She is also on the Board of Trustees of her alma mater, Randolph (Macon Woman's) College, in Lynchburg, VA, and is active at King of King's Lutheran

Church. Her work to contribute her considerable energies to these worthy causes represent the best of Texas' generous spirit.

Dr. Edna Rehbein's retirement is the richly-deserved beginning of an exciting journey. I join her former students, colleagues, family, and friends in honoring her career, commending her commitment to education, and wishing my friend nothing but the best in the years ahead.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE WHITE
TANKS ROTARY CLUB AND
YOUTH4TROOPS

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the White Tanks Rotary Club and the Youth4Troops organization, who are coming together to prepare and package goods to be shipped to our service members deployed overseas and for homeless veterans.

This event brings together two groups dedicated to serving our military members and inspiring patriotism in fellow youth, and across generations by volunteering on behalf of service members and veterans everywhere. This event is intended as an expression of gratitude toward the many sacrifices that these military members make in defense of liberty in America and around the world. The White Tanks Rotary Club has made good on its mission to serve others, promote integrity and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace.

I commend the participants, the White Tanks Rotary Club and Youth4Troops, for coordinating and hosting this event.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
CAREER OF AMBASSADOR MAR-
ION H. SMOAK

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of Ambassador Marion H. Smoak as he celebrates his 103rd birthday. Ambassador Smoak has dedicated many years to public service and embodies the principles of a true servant leader.

Ambassador Smoak earned a bachelor's in English and History from The Citadel in 1938. He went on to receive a law degree from the University of South Carolina Law School in 1941. After receiving his law degree Ambassador Smoak served in the Army as a Judge Advocate and was stationed in Berlin, Germany and New Caledonia, Japan with the 11th and 82nd Airborne Divisions. Following his tour abroad, he became a law professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Upon leaving his position at West Point, Ambassador Smoak continued to serve in the Army as a Legislative Liaison Officer right here in Washington, D.C. During his service, he assisted in drafting legislation and performed liaison duties both with Congress and

the Department of Justice, State, and Department of Defense. Ambassador Smoak then became Chief of the Legislative Drafting Division for the Judge Advocate General. He served as Chief until 1961 when he retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. Following his retirement, Ambassador Smoak continued to serve his community by pursuing elected office in the South Carolina State Senate.

Upon completing his term in the Senate, Ambassador Smoak was appointed to serve at the State Department as the Deputy Chief of Protocol, then Chief of Protocol for President Nixon. During this time Smoak was witness to many historic events of diplomacy. When he retired from the State Department in 1974, he was given the title of Ambassador. His storied career continued when he was named Co-Chairman on the Committee of Finance for then Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan. Ambassador Smoak went on to practice international law until his retirement.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and lifelong servant leadership of Ambassador Smoak. It is with great pride that we thank him for his service and wish him continued health and happiness with his friends, family, and loved ones. Furthermore I hope that he may continue to enjoy his well-deserved daily martinis.

RECOGNIZING PRETRIAL, PROBATION AND PAROLE SUPERVISION WEEK OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the nation's community corrections professionals and the vital role they play in enhancing public safety throughout the United States. In honor of the invaluable contributions of these dedicated public servants, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) and its associated members have designated the week of July 21 through 27 "Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2019."

I thank the thousands of men and women who perform these important public safety duties and urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in support of APPA's week-long recognition efforts this year. Thousands of women and men in the nation's capital and across the country serve as pretrial, probation and parole officers or administrators. As public servants, they, along with many other Americans, commit themselves on a daily basis to helping improve the lives of those involved in the criminal justice system. The work of these professionals ultimately results in stronger and safer communities for all.

Community corrections professionals are responsible for the supervision of adult and juvenile offenders in communities throughout our nation. These trained professionals go above and beyond the call of duty by connecting their clients to supportive services, community-based resources, employment opportunities, housing programs and other evidence-based practices that help individuals successfully complete supervision and reenter society.

Community corrections professionals strive to provide these services and support, while simultaneously providing client surveillance, crime prevention and restorative justice.

In honor of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2019, I take the opportunity to recognize those who carry out community corrections and supervision services especially in the District of Columbia, including the officers and professionals of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA). CSOSA and the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) are dedicated to reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety in the nation's capital. CSOSA and PSA are recognized as model community supervision entities because of their use of evidence-based practices and community partnerships. On any given day, CSOSA is responsible for supervising approximately 10,500 individuals on probation, parole or supervised release, while PSA supervises over 17,000 defendants over the course of a year. Charged with having to balance issues of public safety with social services and reentry support, the employees of CSOSA and PSA help to enhance the security of everyone who lives, works or visits the District.

Madam Speaker, again, I extend my gratitude to these public servants for their commitment, compassion and contributions to healthier and safer communities throughout the United States. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in acknowledging the impact community corrections professionals have on the quality of life of all Americans throughout our country by recognizing July 21 through 27 as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2019.

HONORING YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I proudly honor the YMCA Youth and Government Program. Over the past 80 years, the YMCA Youth and Government Program has paved the way in creating the next generation of actively engaged leaders.

The national program invites young people from across the United States to participate in state-organized and model-government programs where they can participate in volunteering activities and get early exposure to practice governance and democracy. The program also provides the tools and resources to support all youth development through holistic programming. This program has played a crucial role in using the YMCA core values to cultivate a new generation of leaders.

My father, the late Donald M. Payne, was the first African American president of the National Council of YMCAs. He believed in the YMCA's mission to support our country's youth through mentorship opportunities. As someone who has participated in the YMCA Youth and Government Program, I actively support its mission of empowering young leaders to not only be active in their community, but also reshape the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the YMCA Youth and Government Program.

HONORING HANK SCHREEDER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Representative JARED HUFFMAN to honor Hank Schreeder for his service as the Santa Rosa Chief of Police and thank him for his commitment to our community upon his retirement.

Chief Schreeder earned a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Criminal Justice from California State University Long Beach and a Master of Criminal Justice Program from the American Military University. He is also a graduate of the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, the Supervisory Leadership Institute, and the Command College. In addition, Chief Schreeder was a leader in the development of Sonoma County's Family Justice Center and served as a member of the Chop's Teen Club Board.

During his time as Santa Rosa Chief of Police, Chief Schreeder increased transparency and worked to balance the needs of the community within budgetary limits. Chief Schreeder additionally bolstered community engagement by working with various community-based organizations to combat homelessness and develop long term solutions to the problem. Under Chief Schreeder's instrumental leadership, the Santa Rosa Police Department led a coordinated response to the October 2017 fires, drawing upon hundreds of officers from a mix of agencies to evacuate residents, find missing people, and patrol fire areas.

Madam Speaker, Chief Schreeder is an important member of our community and a true public servant. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Chief Schreeder here today.

EMMA SCHLOMANN EARNS GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emma Schломann of Katy, Texas for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.

This is the highest award given to Girl Scouts and less than 5 percent achieve it. It is awarded to girls who develop and execute a project to make a lasting impact on an issue they are passionate about. Emma chose to do a Seizure Awareness campaign called "Project Caesar." This project is deeply personal to her as she was diagnosed with seizures almost 10 years ago. As part of her project, Emma created a six-minute informative video, which was sent to several school campuses in Katy ISD for teachers to show to students in their classrooms. She also gave a presentation to a group of 40 people to help spread awareness for seizure disorder. Emma received this Girl Scout Gold Award for her hard work and dedication to this project and her community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again

to Emma Schlomann for earning the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award.

HONORING WILLIAM MAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I pause to call attention to the upcoming retirement of a Missouri leader, advocate, legal scholar, and friend of small business.

For twenty years, Mr. William "Bill" May has served as executive director and general counsel at the Missouri Outdoor Advertising Association (MOAA). He will retire at the end of 2019.

An attorney, Bill May is considered an expert on regulation of out of home advertising in Missouri. His advice and counsel are sought by officeholders and staff, government officials, landowners, and billboard companies.

Bill began his career with Pioneer Outdoor Advertising in Springfield; he was promoted to general manager and general counsel. Soon after he assumed leadership of the Missouri Outdoor Advertising Association in 1999, voters faced an anti-billboard statewide ballot measure ("Proposition A") which was defeated on November 7, 2000.

Recognized nationally for his trade association leadership, Bill is an effective advocate for property rights, new technology, and common-sense flexibility for our state to save time and money in carrying out its regulatory duties.

As a supporter of law enforcement, I commend Bill and his colleagues in the billboard industry for partnerships to help find fugitives and missing persons and also deliver emergency information.

Please join me in congratulating Bill May and his wife Gail for their long service to Missouri and the out of home media industry.

IN HONOR OF NAMPAs 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. GOODEN. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the North American Mature Publishers Association, Inc (NAMPA) is celebrating its 25th anniversary on October 13, 2019; and

Whereas, this prestigious association is holding its annual international convention and anniversary celebration in Memphis, Tennessee, where publishers, editors, staff, and guests of senior/boomer publications from across the United States and Canada will gather for educational and networking sessions; and

Whereas, NAMPA is a non-profit association of 96 member publications in 36 US States, and two Provinces in Canada with more than 4 million mature readers per month with its international headquarters located in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

Whereas, NAMPA's purpose and mission is to help magazines and newspapers that focus

on the mature market to improve their quality in terms of design and content, while also increasing revenue; and

Whereas, we wish to officially recognize and honor this outstanding association, its members, officers, and its current Executive Director, Gary L. Calligas, for their ongoing commitment to education and service to mature readers;

Now, therefore, we urge all citizens to support this milestone anniversary.

HONORING MR. ROBERT CLEMM

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Clemm, who has served actively for 60 continuous years with the Camp Hill Fire Company. Mr. Clemm joined the company in June of 1959. During his college years, he volunteered as a dispatcher. While he served as Assistant Fire Chief for many years, he now serves with the Fire Police. He has consistently distinguished himself over these 60 years through quiet leadership, ability, dedication and kindness. His efforts have improved fire safety not only in Camp Hill, but across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Education has been a core part of Mr. Clemm's mission. While volunteering with the Fire Company, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in education from Millersville University of Pennsylvania and, in 1963, began a distinguished career as an award-winning industrial science teacher in the Big Springs School District.

Mr. Clemm used his skill as an educator to become a state-certified fire instructor for the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy. He taught advanced specialty classes, with topics including vehicle rescue, aerial operations, and methods for use of rural water supplies. When the Fire Academy faced budget troubles, he volunteered his time to ensure that Pennsylvania's firefighters would have the best training possible. He's also worked as an instructor in the Fire Science program at the Harrisburg Area Community College, where he helped to prepare future generations of fire instructors.

Mr. Clemm believes in teaching and preparing for the future, which not only makes him an effective teacher, but effective leader and mentor. His support, guidance, and inspiration to his fellow firefighters have spurred many to greater heights, strengthening the Company, ensuring its future, and improving the safety of the community.

After serving for decades as a firefighter, spending most of those years as Assistant Fire Chief, Mr. Clemm has moved on to support the Company's fire police operation. He's been instrumental in upgrading training for the fire police both locally and at the state level, and his insight has been invaluable as the Company acquired two fire police units.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Tenth Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and sincere gratitude to Mr. Robert Clemm for his selfless and tireless service to our community and Country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, on June 28, I indicated how I would have voted on certain votes I missed that week. For three votes the wrong bill number is listed in the Record. To clarify, here is the correct information with respect to those votes:

Roll Call Vote Number 412 (Passing H. AMDT. 485 to H.R. 3351 offered by Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton): Yes; Roll Call Vote Number 424 (Passing H.R. 3351, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2020): Yes; and, Roll Call Vote Number 429 (Agreeing to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3401, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019): No.

RECOGNIZING HAVEN MEGED OF MILES CITY

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Haven Meged, of Miles City, for his outstanding success as a rookie on the rodeo circuit.

The Miles City native became involved in rodeo around the age of 11, and at 21, he is ranked in the top 10 in the world for tie-down roping. After his win at the College National Finals in June, he continues to take the American rodeo scene by storm.

With his mare named Beyoncé, Haven is working toward his goal "to be rookie of the year, qualify for the National Finals Rodeo, and win a gold buckle."

At Custer County High, Haven won over 10 high school rodeo championships before going on to be a true freshman roper in college. After his first year, he transferred to a renowned rodeo school in Texas.

At Tarleton State University, his professors and rodeo coaches work with him to balance his books and his rodeo career. As busy and successful as Haven has been, he continues to focus on his studies and tie downs.

Rodeo is part of our Montana way of life. While the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association was founded in 1936, the roots of rodeo go back even further. During the summer, almost every city in Montana hosts a rodeo, either amateur or professional, making the cowboy sport a welcome sight. Hundreds of young men and women participate, carrying on the tradition of life on the cattle trail.

Madam Speaker, for his outstanding accomplishments as a young rodeo competitor, for his dedication to the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, and for preserving the American cowboy tradition, I recognize Haven Meged of Miles City for his spirit of Montana.

HONORING CARMEL MANOR

HON. THOMAS MASSIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Carmel Manor in Fort Thomas, KY. Carmel Manor has been providing care for seniors in the northern Kentucky community for 70 years.

Carmel Manor served its first residents in 1949 after the Diocese of Covington asked the Carmelite Sisters to administer the home. The Carmelite Sisters are united in and motivated by the belief that life is valuable from conception to its natural end. They understand it is hard to leave a loved one in the care of another, but the staff of Carmel Manor have proven they know how to care for the whole person—not just physical needs but spiritual, emotional, and social needs as well.

Throughout its history, Carmel Manor has worked to honor its residents' lives with compassion, dignity, and joy. They have achieved this by growing with the needs of their community.

Congratulations to Carmel Manor on their 70th anniversary. May they continue their mission to care in the years to come.

CHUCK BRAWNER RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chuck Brawner for being named a recipient of the Stan C. Stanley "Eagle" Leadership and Economic Development Award.

The Stan Stanley awards recognize a volunteer and elected official who have done their part to inspire leadership and economic growth in the Katy area. Mr. Brawner, mayor of the city of Katy, received the award in the elected official category for his dedication to our Katy community. Prior to being elected mayor in 2017, Mr. Brawner served as chief of police for the Spring Branch Independent School District Police Department. Our community is grateful for the forty years that he has dedicated to public service and law enforcement.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mr. Brawner for this honor.

RECOGNIZING HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hillsborough Community College (HCC) for its 50th anniversary. Since 1968, Hillsborough Community College

has provided the people of the Tampa Bay community with an affordable and quality education.

Ever since holding its first classes at Hillsborough High School in my hometown of Tampa, Florida, HCC has since grown to become an accredited institution serving over 44,000 students each year across 5 campuses and 3 training centers. HCC has expanded to offer 190 academic programs, ranging from Paralegal Studies to Engineering Technology. More than 84 percent of HCC graduates remain in Hillsborough County after graduation. Their contributions to our community are irreplaceable. HCC's graduates make Hillsborough County a better place.

HCC is a vibrant and diverse community with students of many different backgrounds. HCC also has been recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution, meaning more than 25 percent of full-time HCC students are Hispanic or Latino. The 50th graduating class included students aged 16 to 72 years old. To celebrate the diversity of their campuses and encourage retention, in 2006 HCC hosted its first Annual Black, Brown & College Bound (BBCB) Summit. The Summit brings accomplished professionals and scholars together with Black and Latino male students to discuss barriers that affect persistence and completion among minority males. In its 13th year, BBCB has grown nationally to include more than 150 different colleges and universities from 40 states.

HCC has is not just be an institution of higher learning, but part of the fabric of our community—hosting events such as a hearing of the United States Senate on small, premium cigar businesses in the college's Cigar City campus, forums to address the persistence of sexual harassment in the workplace and enrollment events for the Affordable Care Act to expand health care coverage to our most vulnerable neighbors.

Hillsborough Community College plays a critical role in preparing young students for promising futures in the workforce. I applaud HCC's success in preparing students for continued education and professional careers. I am eager to see where HCC's next 50 years will lead students in the Tampa Bay community.

IN MEMORY OF THEODORE J. "TED" PLAMONDON, JR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Theodore J. "Ted" Plamondon, Jr. Teddy was a constituent of mine from Enfield, CT. He passed away last Tuesday at the age of 93.

Ted was born and raised in Enfield. He worked as a police officer and served as Hartford County sheriff, state marshal, and town constable. Additionally, he served for 22 years in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve throughout World War II, the Korean War, and the war in Vietnam. Consequently, it should come as no surprise that Teddy was the biggest advocate for veterans Enfield has ever seen. He organized both the Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades every year, was chairman of the Enfield Veterans Council, and was in-

involved with AMVETS Post 18, VFW Post 1501, and the John Maciolek American Legion Post 154. He was also instrumental in securing a new World War II monument in town. And, as if all that weren't enough, he was an active member of the Democratic Town Committee.

As a testament to Teddy's popularity and how deeply beloved he was by his community, Enfield residents took turns keeping constant vigil at his bedside as he ailed.

Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of knowing Ted Plamondon for over twenty years from his involvement in the court system, local politics and tireless veteran advocacy. He was outspoken, and you always knew where he stood—even if it meant ruffling feathers. Enfield, the town he loved, lost a devoted citizen whose life embodied public service. It was a privilege to know him and call him a friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincerest condolences to Ted's surviving family, for their loss.

HONORING WBA SUPER BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION RONNY RIOS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor lifelong Santa Ana resident and the WBA Super Bantamweight Champion of the World, Ronny Rios.

Ronny was born in Compton, California and his family moved to Santa Ana when he was just a toddler. Ronny grew up in Santa Ana and attended Monroe Elementary School, McFadden Intermediate School and graduated from Saddleback High School, where he was a proud Roadrunner.

Ronny was introduced to boxing at the age of 13, when he joined the local boxing club, TKO Boxing. Ronny immediately demonstrated talent in the sport and became one of the top prospects at TKO Boxing.

Ronny began to make a name for himself as an amateur boxer. He was a finalist in the Olympic Trials, narrowly missing a spot on the 2008 Olympic Team. He was a two-time U.S. Amateur National Champion and national Golden Gloves Champion. Ronny was one of the most decorated amateurs to hit the boxing scene in many years.

In 2009, Ronny made the step to become a professional boxer and signed with Golden Boy Promotions, the boxing promotion company run by legendary boxer Oscar De La Hoya.

As a professional boxer, Ronny racked up an impressive list of wins, going 23–0 in his first 5 years as a professional with 12 knockouts. He scored NABF and WBA Silver Championships and sought a world champion title.

After a couple of losses, Ronny went into semi-retirement in early 2018, choosing to enter a career in real estate. A year later, Ronny returned to the sport to take one last shot at a title. The comeback began with a win over Daniel Olea on April 26.

Ronny's next fight was for a title against the undefeated Diego De La Hoya, cousin of Oscar De La Hoya, and a rising star in the sport of boxing. Ronny was considered the underdog.

The two faced off at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson on July 13, 2019 for the titles of NABF Super Bantamweight and the WBA Super Bantamweight Champion. In an ending that could be written for a movie, Ronny completed his comeback and achieved his dream of a world title with a 6-round knockout of De La Hoya, who suffered his first loss.

With this win, Ronny was crowned the NABF Super Bantamweight Title and the WBA Super Bantamweight Champion. Ronny Rios has truly made Santa Ana and America proud. Please join me in recognizing world boxing champion and my constituent, Ronny Rios.

HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MANUFACTURING LEADERSHIP ACT

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Manufacturing USA Programs, the Manufacturing Institutes and their role in advancing U.S. Manufacturing.

These programs are the only ones of their kind in this country designed to bring business partners together in full collaboration, built to foster communities of innovators and entrepreneurs, and equipped to move specific new technologies into the manufacturing mainstream. We need these types of communities to propel advanced manufacturing out of the research labs and into the marketplace. The United States is a global leader in scientific and engineering research, but we are lagging in taking that research into the marketplace. The Manufacturing USA program has shown that the time to market can be greatly reduced in the right environment.

In the four short years of their existence, 14 Manufacturing Institutes have entered separate technology areas key to our future competitiveness. The partners in these institutes contribute matching funds equal to or greater than the government share. At the end of 2017, the matching funds were already being invested at \$1.50 for every \$1 investment from the federal government, speaking to the enthusiasm of the industry participation.

More importantly, 844 manufacturing firms and 297 educational institutions were participating in the collective institutes along with 150 other entities, such as state and local governments.

In the years since that report, the Manufacturing USA program has reached a spending match of \$2 for every \$1 of federal funding, with 1,300 member organizations across the institutes, supporting 270 major collaborative industry-led R&D projects, and offered training opportunities for more than 200,000 people.

As a result, global competition in the manufacturing sector is growing tremendously. Several of our international competitors have focused government-supported efforts to develop their industrial sectors and commercialization strategies.

The European Union's Horizon 2020 program invested 80 billion Euros in funding over 7 years and a follow-on program is in development.

Germany's Fraunhofer Society, established in 1949, currently includes 72 institutes fo-

cused on applied research and development across various technology domains relevant to manufacturing. In 2017, the Fraunhofer Society budget totaled about \$2.6 billion, with about \$2.25 billion in contract research. 30 percent of this budget comes from government funds, and 70 percent from private.

China has set advancing manufacturing as one of their six top priorities and is on the path to opening 40 manufacturing institutes by 2025. The country is following the plan set by the Manufacturing USA program.

Korea (a country less than 1/6 the size of the USA) is spending \$291M on the Korea Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), established in 1989 to strengthen their small and mid-sized manufacturing base.

The list goes on: Japan, Singapore, the UK, and others are all heavily investing in manufacturing.

This is why The Manufacturing USA program is so important—because it is our best effort to respond strategically as a nation to this mounting competition. The program allows the United States to focus its resources on high-value industries and ensure future leadership around the globe.

In December 2017, the White House published a National Security Strategy of the United States which states, "Economic security is national security" and calls out the need to lead in research, technology, invention, and innovation.

In response, the National Institute of Standards and Technology reached out to our countrymen and women and reported on how we can better come together as a country and make use of our government investments. They reported 5 strategies to transfer the results of Federal research and development investments to the benefit of our country's commercial, economic, and national security interests. This report is the most extensive of its kind to explore the value of Federal US research investments.

Furthermore, the Manufacturing USA program is uniquely positioned to address and is addressing the following 4 strategies: Private sector engagement, Entrepreneurial workforce, Tools and services for technology transfer, and Understanding of global science and technology trends and benchmarks.

The groundwork for this program has been laid. The strategy for supporting our industrial base and securing our economic future has been thought through. We must continue our support for this program to safeguard our continued prosperity. I urge you all to support this bill to extend the term of federal funding for the Manufacturing USA program and to expand on the government-private partnerships operating under the program.

DICK PHILLIPS RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dick Phillips for being named a recipient of the Stan C. Stanley "Eagle" Leadership and Economic Development Award.

The Stan Stanley awards recognize a volunteer and elected official who have done their

part to inspire leadership and economic growth in the Katy area. Mr. Phillips, University of Houston Vice President of Community Engagement, received the award in the volunteer category. He was crucial in recruiting the University of Houston Victoria and the University of Houston Katy campus to the Katy area. This accomplishment is creating jobs and opportunities for the hard-working individuals in our community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Mr. Phillips. We wish him the best of luck on his future endeavors on behalf of Katy, TX.

STOP CRUELTY TO MIGRANT CHILDREN ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise to emphasize the urgent need to assist migrant children at our Southern land border. The Trump Administration's treatment of asylum-seeking families at the border is un-American and inhumane.

There have been over 2,500 children separated from their families at our border. Of the 2,500, 1,033 were under the age of ten when they were detained, including 103 that were under five. Last year, I traveled to Texas to see the conditions first-hand. At the McAllen CBP Central Processing Center, I saw children being kept in large cages, most separated from their parents. At the Port Isabel ICE Detention Center, I cried with mothers who had their children taken away from them.

A year later and there are still serious overcrowding and prolonged detention of unaccompanied migrant children. At Rio Grande Valley, 826 of the 2,669 children detained had been held longer than the 72 hours generally permitted under the current CBP standards and the Flores Agreement. Furthermore, children had no access to showers and had not been provided hot meals.

Madam Speaker, no child should have to endure the conditions of the Trump administration's anti-immigrant rhetoric, regardless of their immigration status. UNHCR's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, herself said she was "deeply shocked that children are forced to sleep on the floor in overcrowded facilities, without access to adequate healthcare or food, and with poor sanitation conditions." Detention is never in the best interest of any child—and it is heartbreaking to know that these children may have serious damage to their health and development as a result of this Administration's shameful practice.

This is why I am introducing the "Stop Cruelty to Migrant Children Act". This the bill would:

End family separations except in situations where the child is a trafficking victim, not the child of the accompanying adult, or in danger of abuse or neglect.

Set minimum health and safety standards for children and families in Border Patrol Stations; require access to toothbrushes, diapers, soap and showers and other hygiene products; require regular nutritious meals; and ensure a prompt medical assessment by trained medical providers.

End for-profit contractors from operating new Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) standard shelters or influx facilities. Such shelters or facilities must be state-licensed, meet Flores Settlement Agreement standards, and not used to house children indefinitely.

Expand alternatives to detention and the successful Family Case Management Program (FCMP), which was a program that was designed to increase compliance with immigration obligations through a comprehensive case management strategy supported by community organizations.

Remove roadblocks to placing unaccompanied children with sponsors by lowering the total number of cases a manager may take, mandating lower staffing ratios, and ending the information sharing agreement between ORR and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Ensure unaccompanied children have access to legal counsel and continue to be placed in a safe setting for their initial asylum case review.

Provide resources to non-profit centers that are helping provide humanitarian assistance.

Permit Members of Congress, accompanying staff, and credentialed press (without cameras) to visit any facility with 24-hour notice.

We need to ensure that our government funds must not be used to traumatize or harm asylum seekers. The Trump administration's lack of empathy and compassion for migrant families and children at the U.S.-Mexico border is heartbreaking and demands action by Congress. Those who come to our nation should be treated with dignity and respect and that is something the administration has failed to provide when treating migrant families. We have a crisis at the southern border, and we need to ensure our officials have the resources they need while respecting the dignity of those in the U.S. government's care. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in the fight to protect children's human rights.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN FARRITOR'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of veteran and integral part of the San Diego and Camp Pendleton communities, John Farritor.

John was born on July 9, 1919 in Broken Bow, Nebraska. At the age of 13, John dropped out of school to run his family's 720-acre hay farm. Although he wanted to enlist after Germany invaded Poland in 1939, he waited a year to help his mother at the ranch before joining the Marines.

John started boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego in July 1941 and was later stationed at Camp Pendleton as a member of the 3rd Marine Division Field Artillery. John is one of the few surviving Marines who marched 55 miles from Camp Elliot to the newly opened Camp Pendleton in Oceanside in September 1942.

John's division played a crucial role in several battles in the Pacific, including the battle

to liberate Guam and the battle of Iwo Jima. He remembers watching his fellow soldiers raising the American flag after the battle of Iwo Jima. The morning after the battle, he rose at dawn to make sure the flag was still flying over the hill.

John continued his service after the war and joined the 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Battalion at Camp Pendleton. He served in the Korean War, where he received a wound to the hand from flying shrapnel. Despite his years of service, he has refused a Purple Heart and does not like being called a war hero. He says that "all of the real heroes were buried over there."

During his 30 years of service in the Marines, he rose from the rank of private to first sergeant. He documented his experiences in his memoir *Through It All: Stories from the Top*, published in 2001.

John Farritor has lived an incredible and full life. He is a true inspiration for our community, and we cannot thank him enough for his service to his country and to Camp Pendleton.

John Farritor celebrated his birthday on July 9 with friends and family in Vista, California. I am honored to pay tribute to John, and I wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

HANNA TEERMAN EARNS STATE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hanna Teerman of Cinco Ranch High School in Katy, TX, who was selected for a scholarship from the U.S. Department of State's National Security Language Initiative for Youth.

This highly competitive merit-based scholarship will give Hanna the opportunity to live overseas in language immersion program to acquire skills that are critical to U.S. national security. During this program, Hanna will develop her foreign language skills, increase her cross-cultural understanding, strengthening her leadership capacity and foster new academic insights and ambitions.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Hanna Teerman on earning this prestigious scholarship.

RAISE THE WAGE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters in support of H.R. 582, Raise the Wage Act: International Brotherhood of Teamsters; National Urban League; Disability Coalition; Health Care Groups; Interreligious Working Group on Domestic Human Needs; First Focus Campaign for Children; Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; Americans for Democratic Action; and National Employment Lawyers Association.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD

OF TEAMSTERS,

July 16, 2019.

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: This week, the House of Representatives will take up H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters urges you to vote for H.R. 582.

Income inequality is on an alarming trajectory and continues to rise unabated. Neither record-breaking corporate profits nor increased productivity have reversed or slowed this trend. This is not the kind of economy we should be building. The Raise the Wage Act is essential to bringing some measure of fairness and justice to workers who toil at the lower-end of the wage scale. It is an important step we can take to address growing pay inequality. An increase in the federal minimum wage, which has not increased since 2009, is long overdue.

H.R. 582 would raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15.00 per hour by 2024. It would increase the minimum wage to \$8.55 this year, with increases over the subsequent six years. After 2024, the minimum wage would be indexed to median wage growth to ensure that its value does not erode.

Finally, the bill would remedy an egregious situation that has gone on for far too long. The bill would phase out the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at a paltry \$2.13 per hour for more than 20 years. And, it would end the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities employed in sheltered workshops and for workers under age 20.

No one who works hard and plays by the rules should live in poverty. Much is said about valuing work, and about respecting work. If we truly value work, if we truly respect work, the House will pass H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019.

Again, the Teamsters Union urges a yes vote on H.R. 582.

Sincerely,

JAMES P. HOFFA,
General President.

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE
WASHINGTON BUREAU,

July 15, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As President and CEO of the National Urban League, I am writing to express our strong support for immediate passage of the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (H.R. 582). Raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour is a key provision of the National Urban League's Main Street Marshall Plan, a bold and comprehensive plan for lifting urban communities out of poverty and stimulating their economic growth.

The National Urban League has been in every fight to raise the minimum wage. While the road from poverty to plenty is long, raising the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15/hour is an important and long overdue first step in lifting millions of families out of poverty and giving them a chance at a better life. No one—absolutely no one—who works full time should ever live in poverty. Yet, according to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), one in nine U.S. workers are paid wages that can leave them in poverty, even when working full-time and year-round. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 would have a major impact on people of color. According to research, 38.1 percent of Black workers and 33.4 percent of Hispanic workers would get a raise if the federal minimum wage were increased to \$15.

We applaud the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 because it is a comprehensive minimum wage bill that would positively impact workers on different levels. H.R. 582 would:

Gradually raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 over the next six years to

lift millions of workers out of poverty, stimulate local economies, and restore the value of minimum wage;

Index future increases in the federal minimum wage to median wage growth to ensure the value of minimum wage does not once again erode over time;

Guarantee tipped workers are paid at least the full federal minimum wage by repealing the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which will ensure consistent, livable pay;

Guarantee teen workers are paid at least the full federal minimum wage by repealing the rarely used subminimum wage for youth workers; and

End subminimum wage certificates for individuals with disabilities to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be competitively employed, taxpaying citizens and participate more fully in their communities.

Putting more money in the pockets of working Americans who will reinvest in our economy on things like groceries and housing will boost the economy from the bottom up and create real and sustainable job growth.

The federal minimum wage has not been increased since 2009. A decade is more than enough time for our nation's leaders to right this unjustifiable inequity. Let's get this done now. It's time for Congress to do the right—and smart—thing by working Americans. The National Urban League looks forward to working with you to get the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 enacted into law this year.

Sincerely,

MARC H. MORIAL,
President and CEO,
National Urban League.

CPSD, NATIONAL DISABILITY
RIGHTS NETWORK,
July 11, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned organizations understand that the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 will soon come up for a vote before the full House. We unequivocally believe that any minimum wage bill must include ALL people, including people with disabilities. We strongly support the inclusion of the phase out of subminimum wages to people with disabilities, currently legal under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), in the Raise the Wage Act and urge you to vote against any amendments that would leave people with disabilities out of this important bill.

Employment of people with disabilities has long been a bi-partisan national goal. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 established as a priority competitive integrated employment, where people with disabilities work in mainstream jobs alongside, and are paid comparable wages to, co-workers without disabilities. WIOA furthers the goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to advance the economic self-sufficiency of people with disabilities.

Yet, despite the clear national priority for competitive integrated employment, nearly 230,000 people with disabilities are legally paid sub-minimum wages under Section 14(c) of FLSA, largely in settings where they are segregated from their nondisabled peers and broader society. The subminimum wage creates and reinforces a life of poverty and dependency on public support. In hearings before this Congress, expert witnesses have testified that ending subminimum wages is a civil rights issue and that phasing out Section 14(c) is a critical component of any federal minimum wage bill.

As the Congressionally-created federal Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with

Disabilities ("the Committee") described in its report to Congress and the Labor Secretary:

[There is an] underlying need to amend Section 14(c) of the FLSA so that it reflects and aligns with modern federal disability policy and laws, which are based on the assumption that all individuals with disabilities are capable of, and have a right to, [competitive integrated employment]. The current widespread practice of paying workers subminimum wages, based on assumptions that people with disabilities cannot work in typical jobs, or on assumptions about the unavailability of alternative work opportunities, is antithetical to the intent of modern federal policy and law.

The National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency charged with advising the President, Congress, and other federal agencies regarding policies that impact people with disabilities, has repeatedly called for the elimination of sub-minimum wages under Section 14(c), including in its recent report, "National Disability Employment Policy, From the New Deal to the Real Deal: Joining the Industries of the Future."

The inclusion of the 14(c) phase out in the Raise the Wage Act sends a clear message to the public that it is no longer acceptable to pay individuals with disabilities less than the minimum wage. The undersigned organizations stress again the necessity that the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 retain the phase out of the use of 14(c) certificates and bring an end to this blatantly discriminatory practice which allows for the payment of subminimum wages to people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

American Association of People with Disabilities, Association of People Supporting Employment First, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Center for Public Representation, Collaboration to Promote Self Determination, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund.

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy, National Council on Independent Living, National Disability Institute, National Disability Rights Network, National Down Syndrome Congress, National Organization on Disability, TASH.

July 3, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT: The undersigned organizations are writing to express our support for the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (H.R. 582). The Act would raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15.00 an hour over a six-year period, after which the minimum wage would be indexed to median wages. Our organizations believe that raising the federal minimum wage will significantly contribute to improving quality of care and quality of life for nursing home residents across the country.

According to the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI), nursing assistants earn a median wage of \$12.84 an hour and a median income of \$21,200 a year. Nursing assistants' inflation-adjusted wages have only increased six cents in the past 10 years, meaning that "while goods and services increased in price, the purchasing power of nursing assistant wages did not meaningfully increase in the past decade." Since nursing assistants (37 percent) rely on some form of public assistance, federal and state governments subsidize the nursing home industry by compensating for their workers' low wages. Unfortunately, the data suggest that a profession in caring for the country's most vulnerable individuals may lead to poverty.

Given the hardships involved with being a direct care worker, it is not surprising to learn that these positions cannot compete with less demanding and higher paying jobs, such as those in the fast food and retail industries. This strain on the nursing home workforce is supported by a recently published study in *The Gerontologist*, which indicates that periods of low unemployment (like the one the country is currently experiencing) result in nursing home workers looking for jobs outside of the industry. The report finds that high unemployment makes nursing home work more attractive and leads to better care for nursing home residents, noting that a 5.6 percentage point increase in the unemployment rate decreases deficiencies and would result in lower rates of pressure ulcers, physical restraints use, and weight loss.

Economic recessions should not dictate whether residents have access to quality of care and quality of life. The federal Nursing Home Reform Law requires every facility to provide services that allow residents to attain or maintain their "highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being." Unfortunately, as the study above highlights, low wages continue to place residents at risk of experiencing higher rates of harm. A 2015 report by the Keystone Research Center further adds that high rates of staff turnover, most often attributed to low wages, disrupt staff-resident relationships and cause "the loss of a valuable source of information about resident well-being." As one nursing home worker explains in the report, "the work is just too hard for such low pay . . . many are either ready to walk away from the work or are thinking hard about doing so . . . Raising my wage to \$15 would . . . really change the way I think about my job."

Improving the experiences of nursing home workers is critical in light of the growing need for direct care workers in the coming years. PHI reports that, "by 2050, the population of adults aged 65 and above—who comprise 83 percent of the nursing home resident population—is expected to nearly double, from 47.8 million (in 2015) to 88 million." Additionally, the number of adults 85 years old and above (40 percent of residents) "is expected to more than triple over the same period from 6.3 million to 19 million." Continuing to pay our direct care workers low, uncompetitive wages for physically and emotionally difficult jobs will only place greater strain on resident care.

Our organizations thank you for taking this step to increase the federal minimum wage and making it easier for nursing home workers to provide care to our nation's most vulnerable individuals. The Raise the Wage Act gives both nursing home workers and residents the hope of a better life.

Sincerely,

Center for Medicare Advocacy, Justice in Aging, Long Term Care Community Coalition, National Association of Social Workers, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement.

DHN INTERRELIGIOUS WORKING
GROUP ON DOMESTIC HUMAN
NEEDS,

June 28, 2019.

DEAR MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The undersigned faith-based advocacy and religious organizations urge House leadership and members to advance the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (H.R. 582) without further delay. The bill passed through committee months ago and is languishing as desperate workers wait for relief. We are deeply concerned about the plight of

our sisters and brothers who work hard but are still struggling to make ends meet. Inflation and rising prices have made the financial squeeze on low-wage workers unbearable. This bill offers a partial remedy to those in most desperate need. Its urgency warrants full consideration by the chamber without further delay. It is time for members to demonstrate that the financial security of workers is a priority in the House.

We come from a variety of faith perspectives, but our moral principles and faith traditions all affirm the need to promote human dignity by prioritizing vulnerable communities and individuals in need. Our faith traditions teach us that justice requires that every worker earn enough to provide a standard of living in accordance with their God-given dignity. The current federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hour and \$2.10/hour for tipped workers is woefully insufficient and has remained stagnant for the longest period in the history of our nation. This disregard is a shameful statement of neglect for those most in need in our society.

Passage of the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 would demonstrate to these workers relegated to a life of poverty that they are, in fact, valued as individuals and as members of society. The provisions of the Raise the Wage Act take substantive steps to ensure people earn wages that are enough to support themselves. Moving towards a universal wage floor of \$15 an hour is on-par with historical minimum wage rates and responds to the real cost of living everywhere in the nation. Phasing out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, workers under the age of 20, and those with disabilities is just and is long overdue. Moreover, an annually adjusted minimum wage based on the nation's median hourly wages would curtail the growing pay inequality between the lowest-paid workers and the middle-class.

Our families and our economy have been increasingly burdened by wage stagnation and income inequality. The Raise the Wage Act of 2019 would immediately lighten this burden by gradually raising the wage floor to broadly impact those at the bottom of the workforce. According to policy experts, more than 1 in 4 workers would be impacted by this legislation, 90 percent of whom are over the age of 20. Estimates project that low-income earners would make an additional \$3,000 a year, on average, for those working year-round. The difference that makes for a preschool teacher, bank teller, or fast-food worker who struggles to get by on around \$20,000 per year would be remarkable. The Raise the Wage Act will particularly benefit women and people of color, who are disproportionately represented among low-wage workers. Additionally, this legislation corrects the harmful and exploitative practice of under-paying individuals with disabilities by recognizing the value of their work and paying them accordingly.

The time for the Raise the Wage Act, is long overdue. Just this month, we marked the shameful milestone of the longest period in U.S. history without a federal minimum wage increase. Justice cannot wait; and neither can Americans who labor every day with insufficient pay. The faith community calls on Leadership to schedule a floor vote on this important piece of legislation immediately. We also urge members of the House of Representatives to pass the Raise the Wage Act free of any degrading amendments which would undermine the law's benefits for poor workers.

Sincerely,

American Friends Service Committee; Bread for the World; Church World Service; Central Conference of American Rabbis; Conference of Superiors of Men (Catholic); Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd,

US Provinces; Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise Province; Disciples Center for Public Witness (Disciples of Christ); Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries; Ecumenical Poverty Initiative.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Faith in Public Life; Franciscan Action Network; Friends Committee on National Legislation; Interfaith Worker Justice; Jesuit Conference—Office of Justice and Ecology; Jewish Council for Public Affairs; Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

National Council of Churches; National Council of Jewish Women; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; Pax Christi USA; Polygon Education Fund; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society; Union for Reform Judaism; Unitarian Universalist Association; United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries; Women of Reform Judaism.

FIRST FOCUS
CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN,
July 12, 2019.

Hon. ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MARK POCAN,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STEPHANIE MURPHY,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCOTT, CONGRESSMAN POCAN, and CONGRESSWOMAN MURPHY: On behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions, I would like to express our support for the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (H.R. 582) and urge all members of the House of Representatives to vote yes in support of this legislation.

As an organization committed to ensuring the economic security of children and families in the United States, we applaud efforts to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024. Nationwide, 17.5 percent of children are living in families with incomes below the poverty line. At its current rate, a parent making minimum wage and working full-time cannot earn enough to pay market rent or lift his or her family out of poverty. Children in the U.S. are disproportionately affected by these low wages, and are 62 percent more likely to live in poverty than adults.

A recent landmark study from the National Academy of Sciences confirms that raising the federal minimum wage decreases child poverty. Written by a nonpartisan committee of the nation's leading experts on child poverty, *A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty* finds that income poverty directly causes negative outcomes to child well-being, yet when yet when a poor household receives additional income, such as from an increase to the minimum wage, parents and guardians are enabled to provide resources that have long-term positive impacts on a child's health and economic contributions.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the new wage proposed would give higher pay to 41 million workers, 28 percent of which have children to support. This would mean the parents of over 11 million children would be empowered to support their child's healthy development with critical resources such as nutritious food, health care, adequate shelter, warm clothing, and educational materials.

Parents who live in a constant state of financial instability and struggle to provide

enough resources for their children often suffer from stress, anxiety, and depression, making it more difficult to respond to their children's emotional needs. Increased income therefore promotes financial stability, improves the physical and mental health of children and families and in turn, reduces child maltreatment rates.

The Raise the Wage Act of 2019 is both an important step towards improving economic stability for 11 million children and a vital investment in the future of our country. We are grateful for your leadership in making children and families a legislative priority, and we look forward to working with you on this and other proposals to improve the well-being of children and youth.

Sincerely,

BRUCE LESLEY,
President

NETWORK LOBBY FOR CATHOLIC
SOCIAL JUSTICE,
July 15, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice urges a yes vote on H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019. In the spirit of the Gospel, we promote a just society which ensures that all people are able to live dignified lives. Catholic Social Justice tells us that a just wage is the central indicator and "the most concrete means of verifying justice" within a fair, functioning, and flourishing economic system. In 2019 in the richest nation in the world, minimum wage workers are groaning and crying out under their financial burdens.

Surviving on \$7.25 an hour anywhere in the country is a bitter, harsh reality; supporting dependents or a family on this wage is impossible. Workers who are one work accident, job loss, or family illness away from economic disaster are so vulnerable—and they are the backbone of our nation. There is a covenant between labor and capital that is part of our nation's history of progress: full time work should be enough to keep families out of poverty. Today we find low wage earners working 2 or even 3 jobs to make ends meet. It is morally reprehensible that millions of people work full time, yet are a paycheck away from acute poverty and homelessness. Long and unpredictable hours with insufficient pay is a bitter existence of hard service and anxiety. Congress must finally prioritize these most vulnerable workers and alleviate their suffering.

NETWORK Lobby will be highlighting this week's floor votes on HR 582 in our annual voting record. One of two outcomes will take place: either the House will rally to pass an increase in the minimum wage or it will fail to do so. This vote will clearly reveal your solidarity with low-income workers—a no vote or support of a Motion to Recommit (MTR) is your denial of workers' dignity. Now is the time to demonstrate that low wage workers have value and deserve dignity in our national economic priorities. NETWORK Lobby urges Congress to vote for the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 as brought to the floor by Leadership and to vote NO on any MTR that may be offered.

Sincerely,

SISTER QUINCY HOWARD, OP,
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice.

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION,
July 15, 2019.

U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As Americans for Democratic Action, we urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. The last time the Federal minimum wage increased was July 24, 2009. Sunday, June 16th, marked the longest period since the Federal minimum wage was instituted that it hasn't been raised. It is with this in mind that a

new sense of urgency to change must be instilled.

The Raise the Wage Act Would:

Lift pay for tens of millions of workers and reverse decades of growing pay inequality;

Favor all low wage workers, only 10 percent of which being teenagers and restaurant workers;

Be particularly significant for workers of color, as 38 percent of African Americans and 33 percent of Latinos would see a wage increase;

Divert reliance on safety-net programs, which reduces burden on the taxpayer;

Raise wages for jobs considered to be middle class, including nearly one third of manufacturing workers, one fifth of construction workers, one sixth of educators, and one fourth of health care workers

It is critical that you vote in favor the Raise the Wage Act as it comes to the floor this week and reject any Motions to Recommit. This legislation would provide numerous benefits to the working people of America, which underscores the importance of passing the bill as written. With wage stagnation surpassing record levels, voting yes on the Raise the Wage Act will provide long overdue relief to those who work but struggle to make ends meet. Please vote yes to raise the wage and improve the lives of millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

DON KUSLER,
*National Director,
Americans for Democratic Action.*

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION
July 15, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA), I am writing to express our strong support for, and to urge you to vote in favor of, passage of the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582). In order to gain passage of the strongest bill possible, we ask that you oppose any motion to recommit and any amendment that would weaken this bill when the bill is brought to a vote on the House floor.

NELA advances workers' rights and serves lawyers who advocate for equality and justice in the American workplace. With members in every state, NELA is the country's largest professional organization exclusively comprised of lawyers who represent individual employees in employment discrimination cases and other employment-related matters. NELA and our 69 state and local affiliates have more than 4,000 members across our nation. Our members are private civil

rights lawyers whose clients suffer the practical realities of an insufficient, inconsistent minimum wage.

The Raise the Wage Act is long-overdue. If passed, it will address the reality of stagnated wages and income inequality brought about, in part, by an outdated federal minimum wage that has not been raised in ten years. The current federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hr is worth 17% less than it was ten years ago. For a full-time, year-round minimum wage worker, this represents a loss of over \$3,000 in annual earnings. If passed, this much-needed bill would raise the federal minimum wage to \$8.55 this year and increase it over the next five years until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2024. The Raise the Wage Act also includes common sense language to adjust the minimum wage each year after 2024. It would phase out the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at a meager \$2.13 since 1991, and sunset the ability of employers to pay a subminimum wage to people with disabilities and workers under the age of twenty.

According to a recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Report, gradually raising the federal minimum wage will lift pay for nearly 27.3 million workers by 2024 and reduce the number of people living in poverty by 1.3 million. Nearly half of the 1.3 million people who would be raised out of poverty are children under the age of eighteen. The CBO study concurs that the benefits of this legislation outweigh its costs, and that passage of the bill will leave low-wage workers and their families far better off than they are now. This bill will bolster the middle class all across the country. Many workers in sectors that are considered skilled, such as early childhood education and health care, struggle to survive on \$15 per hour. Passage of a clean bill will lift those across the bottom of the workforce.

Tens of millions of workers in America currently cannot afford basic living expenses for themselves and the families they support. These same workers stock our grocery stores, fulfill our online purchases, clean offices and homes, and perform thousands of other jobs that make every aspect of the lives of higher wage earners function. These workers are your constituents, and they deserve a raise. We urge you to pass the Raise the Wage Act now.

Sincerely,

TERRY O'NEILL,
Executive Director.

RECOGNIZING LYNETTE LACKEY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Lynette Lackey for her thirty-five years of dedicated service to the federal government and to the North Texas veterans community.

Mrs. Lackey began her career with the United States Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Texoma prior to transferring to the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center in Bonham, Texas, where she worked in various administrative positions. Eventually, Lynette would be assigned as the Congressional Liaison for the VA North Texas Health Care System, the second largest VA health care system in the country. As the assigned Congressional Liaison for the fourteen Congressional offices in the system, Lynette was responsible for responding to inquiries from a served population of over 134,000 veterans, over thirty-eight Texas counties and two counties in southern Oklahoma.

Lynette is often lauded throughout the region for her efforts to assist veterans, their families, and Congressional staff in navigating the often-complicated VA healthcare system. Mrs. Lackey consistently strives to solve the most complex veteran issues, always with the focus of providing the best possible outcomes for those she serves. Lynette has justifiably earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues in the community.

Now as Mrs. Lackey prepares to enjoy her well-deserved retirement, she looks forward to spending more time with her husband of thirty-eight years, Dean, and her children, Jack and Aubrun, and Cole and Leslie. Lynette also anticipates welcoming her first grandchild this fall, taking on the title of "Lolly" and becoming part of the "Lolly and Pop" duo of love and support surely to surround their newest addition.

The North Texas veteran's community and all those who have had the honor of working with her over the past twenty-two years, thank Mrs. Lynette Lackey for her steadfast service and wish her the best in her retirement.